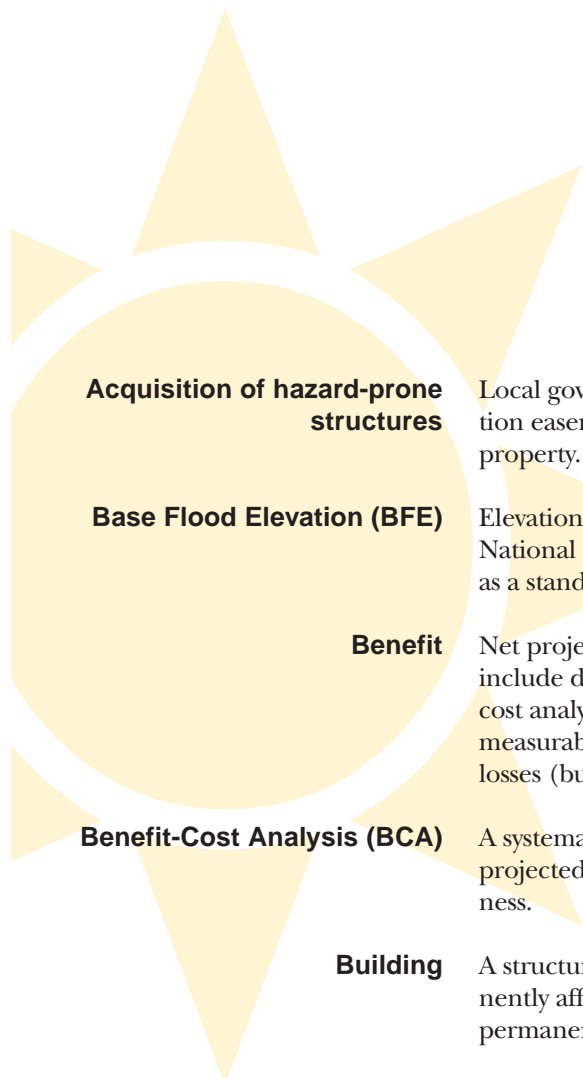


appendix a glossary



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| Acquisition of hazard-prone structures | Local governments can acquire lands in high hazard areas through conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or outright purchase of property. |
| Base Flood Elevation (BFE) | Elevation of the base flood in relation to a specified datum, such as the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The Base Flood Elevation is used as a standard for the National Flood Insurance Program. |
| Benefit | Net project outcomes, usually defined in monetary terms. Benefits may include direct and indirect effects. For the purposes of conducting a benefit-cost analysis of proposed mitigation measures, benefits are limited to specific, measurable risk reduction factors, including a reduction in expected property losses (building, contents, and function) and protection of human life. |
| Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) | A systematic, quantitative method of comparing the projected benefits to projected costs of a project or policy. It is used as a measure of cost-effectiveness. |
| Building | A structure that is walled and roofed, principally above ground and permanently affixed to a site. The term includes a manufactured home on a permanent foundation on which the wheel and axles carry no weight. |
| Capability assessment | An assessment that provides a description and analysis of a community or state's current capacity to address the threats associated with hazards. The capability assessment attempts to identify and evaluate existing policies, regulations, programs, and practices that positively or negatively affect the community or state's vulnerability to hazards or specific threats. |
| Coastal zone | The area along the shore where the ocean meets the land as the surface of the land rises above the ocean. This land/water interface includes barrier islands, estuaries, beaches, coastal wetlands, and land areas with direct drainage to the ocean. |
| Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) | CERT is the mechanism to establish, train and maintain a local cadre of residents to act as first responders in the event of an emergency. A CERT team is especially critical in the first three days following a disaster when conditions may prevent access by emergency response personnel. |
| Community Rating System (CRS) | CRS is a program that provides incentives for National Flood Insurance Program communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. When the community completes specified activities, the insurance premiums of these policyholders in communities are reduced. |



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| Comprehensive plan | A document, also known as a “general plan,” covering the entire geographic area of a community and expressing community goals and objectives. The plan lays out the vision, policies, and strategies for the future of the community, including all of the physical elements that will determine the community’s future development. This plan can discuss the community’s desired physical development, desired rate and quantity of growth, community character, transportation services, location of growth, and siting of public facilities and transportation. In most states, the comprehensive plan has no authority in and of itself, but serves as a guide for community decision-making. |
| Cost-effectiveness | Cost-effectiveness is a key evaluation criterion for federal grant programs. Cost-effectiveness has several possible definitions, although for grant-making purposes FEMA defines a cost-effective project as one whose long-term benefits exceed its costs. That is, a project should prevent more expected damages than it costs initially to fund the effort. This is done to ensure that limited public funds are used in the most efficient manner possible. Benefit-cost analysis is one way to illustrate that a project is cost-effective. |
| Critical facilities | Facilities vital to the health, safety, and welfare of the population and that are especially important following hazard events. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, shelters, police and fire stations, and hospitals. |
| Debris | The scattered remains of assets broken or destroyed in a hazard event. Debris transported by a wind or water hazard event can cause additional damage to other assets. |
| Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) | DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) is the latest legislation to improve the planning process. Signed into law on October 30, 2000, this legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. |
| Earthquake | A sudden motion or trembling caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of the earth’s tectonic plates. |
| Elevation of structures | Raising structures above the base flood elevation to protect structures located in areas prone to flooding. |
| Emergency response services | The actions of first responders such as firefighters, police, and other emergency services personnel at the scene of a hazard event. The first responders take appropriate action to contain the hazard, protect property, conduct search and rescue operations, provide mass care, and ensure public safety. |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) | Agency created in 1979 to provide a single point of accountability for all federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. FEMA is now part of the Department of Homeland Security. |
| Flood Hazard Area | The area on a map shown to be inundated by a flood of a given magnitude. |
| Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) | Map of a community, prepared by FEMA, which shows both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community under the National Flood insurance Program. |



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| Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program | A program created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. FMA provides funding to assist communities and states in implementing actions that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other NFIP insurable structures, with a focus on repetitive loss properties. |
| Floodplain | Any land area, including watercourse, susceptible to partial or complete inundation by water from any source. |
| Flood-proofing | Actions that prevent or minimize future flood damage. Making the areas below the anticipated flood level watertight or intentionally allowing floodwaters to enter the interior to equalize flood pressures are examples of flood-proofing. |
| Flood Zone | A geographical area shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area. |
| Goals | General guidelines that explain what you want to achieve. They are usually broad policy-type statements, long term in nature, and represent global visions. |
| Hazard | A source of potential danger or adverse condition. |
| Hazard event | A specific occurrence of a particular type of hazard. |
| Hazard identification | The process of identifying hazards that threaten an area. |
| Hazard information center | Information booth, publication kiosk, exhibit, etc. that displays information to educate the public about hazards that affect the jurisdiction and hazard mitigation activities people can undertake. |
| Hazard mitigation | Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects. |
| Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) | Authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, HMGP is administered by FEMA and provides grants to states, tribes, and local governments to implement hazard mitigation actions after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to disasters and to enable mitigation activities to be implemented as a community recovers from a disaster. |
| Hazard profile | A description of the physical characteristics of hazards and a determination of various descriptors, including magnitude, duration, frequency, probability, and extent. In most cases, a community can most easily use these descriptors when they are recorded and displayed as maps. |
| HAZUS, HAZUS-MH | A GIS-based, nationally standardized, loss estimation tool developed by FEMA. HAZUS-MH is the new multi-hazard version that includes earthquake, wind, hurricane, and flood loss estimate components. |



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| Hurricane | An intense tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or “eye.” Hurricanes develop over the north Atlantic Ocean, northeast Pacific Ocean, or the south Pacific Ocean east of 160°E longitude. Hurricane circulation is counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. |
| Infrastructure | Refers to the public facilities of a community that have a direct impact on the quality of life. Infrastructure includes communication technology, such as phone lines or Internet access; vital services, such as public water supplies and sewer treatment facilities; and an area’s transportation system: airports, heliports, highways, bridges, tunnels, roadbeds, overpasses, railways, bridges, rail yards, depots; and waterways, canals, locks, seaports, ferries, harbors, drydocks, piers, and regional dams. |
| Landslide | Downward movement of a slope and materials under the force of gravity. |
| Loss estimation | Forecasts of human and economic impacts and property damage from future hazard events, based on current scientific and engineering knowledge. |
| Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) | A non-binding statement that defines the duties, responsibilities, and commitment of the different parties or individuals; provides a clear statement of values, principles, and goals; and establishes an organizational structure to assist in measuring and evaluating progress. |
| Mitigate | To cause something to become less harsh or hostile; to make less severe or painful. |
| Mitigation actions | Activities or projects that help achieve the goals and objectives of a mitigation plan. |
| Mitigation plan | The document that articulates results from the systematic process of identifying hazards and evaluating vulnerability, identifying goals, objectives, and actions to reduce or eliminate the effects of identified hazards, and an implementation plan for carrying out the actions. |
| National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) | Federal program created by Congress in 1968 that makes flood insurance available in communities that enact minimum floodplain management regulations found in 44 CFR §60.3. |
| Objectives | Objectives define strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and measurable. |
| Open space preservation | Preserving undeveloped areas from development through any number of methods, including low-density zoning, open space zoning, easements, or public or private acquisition. Open space preservation is a technique that can be used to prevent flood damage in flood-prone areas, land failures on steep slopes or liquefaction-prone soils, and can enhance the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. |
| Ordinance | A term for a law or regulation adopted by a local government. |



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| Planning | The act or process of making or carrying out plans; the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit. |
| Policy | A course of action or specific rule of conduct to be followed in achieving goals and objectives. |
| Post-disaster mitigation | Mitigation actions taken after a disaster has occurred, usually during recovery and reconstruction. |
| Post-disaster recovery ordinance | An ordinance authorizing certain governmental actions to be taken during the immediate aftermath of a hazard event to expedite implementation of recovery and reconstruction actions identified in a pre-event plan. |
| Post-disaster recovery planning | The process of planning those steps the jurisdiction will take to implement long-term reconstruction with a primary goal of mitigating its exposure to future hazards. The post-disaster recovery planning process can also involve coordination with other types of plans and agencies, but it is distinct from planning for emergency operations. |
| Preparedness | Actions that strengthen the capability of government, citizens, and communities to respond to disasters. |
| Probability | A statistical measure of the likelihood that a hazard event will occur. |
| Public education and outreach programs | Any campaign to make the public more aware of hazard mitigation and mitigation programs, including hazard information centers, mailings, public meetings, etc. |
| Recovery | The actions taken by an individual or community after a catastrophic event to restore order and lifelines in a community. |
| Regulation | Most states have granted local jurisdictions broad regulatory powers to enable the enactment and enforcement of ordinances that deal with public health, safety, and welfare. These include building codes, building inspections, zoning, floodplain and subdivision ordinances, and growth management initiatives. |
| Regulatory power | Local jurisdictions have the authority to regulate certain activities in their jurisdiction. With respect to mitigation planning, the focus is on such things as regulating land use development and construction through zoning, building codes, subdivision regulations, design standards, and floodplain regulations. |
| Relocation out of hazard areas | A mitigation technique that features the process of demolishing or moving a building to a new location outside the hazard area. |
| Resources | Resources include the people, materials, technologies, money, etc., required to implement strategies or processes. The costs of these resources are often included in a budget. |
| Response | The actions taken during and immediately after an event to address immediate life and safety needs and to minimize further damage to properties. |



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| Resolutions | Expressions of a governing body's opinion, will, or intention that can be executive or administrative in nature. Most planning documents must undergo a council resolution, which must be supported in an official vote by a majority of representatives to be adopted. Other methods of making a statement or announcement about a particular issue or topic include proclamations and declarations. |
| Risk | The estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage. Risk is often expressed in relative terms such as a high, moderate, or low likelihood of sustaining damage above a particular threshold due to a specific type of hazard event. It also can be expressed in terms of potential monetary losses associated with the intensity of the hazard. |
| Stafford Act | The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-107 was signed into law November 23, 1988 and amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. The Stafford Act is the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to FEMA and its programs. |
| Stakeholder | Stakeholders are individuals or groups, including businesses, private organizations, and citizens, that will be affected in any way by an action or policy. |
| State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) | The state government representative who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other state and federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities. |
| Structural retrofitting | Modifying existing buildings and infrastructure to protect them from hazards. |
| Subdivision | The division of a tract of land into two or more lots for sale or development. |
| Subdivision and development regulations | Regulations and standards governing the division of land for development or sale. Subdivision regulations can control the configuration of parcels, set standards for developer-built infrastructure, and set standards for minimizing runoff, impervious surfaces, and sediment during development. They can be used to minimize exposure of buildings and infrastructure to hazards. |
| Tornado | A violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. |
| Vulnerability | Describes how exposed or susceptible an asset is to damage. Vulnerability depends on an asset's construction, contents, and the economic value of its functions. Like indirect damages, the vulnerability of one element of the community is often related to the vulnerability of another. For example, many businesses depend on uninterrupted electrical power—if an electric substation is flooded, it not only affects the substation but a number of businesses as well. Often, indirect effects can be much more widespread and damaging than direct ones. |



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| Vulnerability assessment | The extent of injury and damage that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area. The vulnerability assessment should address the effects of hazard events on the existing and future built environment. |
| Wildfire | An uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, exposing and possibly consuming structures. |
| Zoning | The division of land within a local jurisdiction by local legislative regulation into zones of allowable types and intensities of land uses. |
| Zoning ordinance | Designation of allowable land use and intensities for a local jurisdiction. Zoning ordinances consist of two components: a zoning text and a zoning map. |



